

Samuel Michael House (Farrington House)
North side of River Rd. (LR45012), 4.5
miles northeast of Shawnee on Delaware
Shawnee on Delaware vicinity, Middle
Smithfield Township
Monroe County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1170

HABS
PA,
45-54600.V,
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HABS
PA,
45-SHAWNEE,
3-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-1170

SAMUEL MICHAEL HOUSE
(Farmington House)

Location:

Located on the north side of River Rd. (LR45012), 4.5 miles northeast of Shawnee on Delaware, 1.1 miles northeast of Township line, in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Shawnee on Delaware vicinity, Middle Smithfield Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania.

USGS Bushkill Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.497060.4543150.

Present Owner:

United States Government.

Present Use:

Destroyed by fire after 1971.

Significance:

A well-preserved example of a mid-nineteenth century dwelling, constructed of brick, a material rarely utilized for entire structures in the Upper Delaware Valley.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Built in the mid-nineteenth century.
2. Original and subsequent owners: This is an incomplete chain of title. Reference is to the Records Rooms of the County Clerk and Registrar, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, unless otherwise noted.

1829 Deed: 23 Aug. 1829
Reference from 1891 Deed, Monroe County,
Book 41, page 528,
Rebecca Miller and Frederick,
to
Samuel Michael
Grant: rights to real estate of Peter Michael.

1831 Deed: 28 March 1831 Recorded 2 Apr. 1831
Book 9, page 398 Pike County
John Fish and Susannah of Enfield, Tompkins County, New
York, and George Arndst and Elizabeth of Ulysses, Tompkins,
County, New York,
to
Samuel Michael, of Middle Smithfield Township, Pike County,
Pa.
Consideration: \$600.

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Grant: "All their right, title, interest, claim & demand of in & to All those Land or Lands which they have inherited by right of the said Susannah & Elizabeth, from Peter Michael late of the said Town of Middle Smithfield, deceased"

- 1831 Deed: 29 March 1831 Recorded 2 April 1831
Book 9, page 400 Pike County
Abraham Michael, of Middle Smithfield Township, Pike County, Pa.
to
Samuel Michael, of the same,
Consideration: \$300.
Grant: release of rights to land inherited from his father Peter Michael.
- 1838 Deed: 10 May 1838 Recorded 22 Mar. 1864
Release Book 1, page 229
Joseph Michael, George Michael, Sarah Winters and John, Mary Tribble and John, Heirs of Peter Michael,
to
Samuel Michael
Consideration: \$1.00.
Grant: release of rights to real estate of Peter Michael (114 acres, 100 perches)
- 1870 Will: 10 Nov. 1870 Probated 7 Sept. 1872
Book 2, page 367
Samuel Michaels
Bequests: real estate left to widow Mary during her lifetime; "it is my wish that my said dear wife doth rent our farm to any of our sons to farm in shares but should they not do the right thing, or abuse their Mother" Mary can rent to anyone else; upon decease of Mary, land to sold and the profits divided among the thirteen children.
- 1891 Deed: 6 Oct. 1891 Recorded 9 Oct. 1891
Book 41, page 528
Peter, George, and David Michael, Executors of the Will of Samuel Michael,
to
William W. Blanchard, of Newark
Consideration: \$6,500.
Acreage: 161 acres, 20 perches.
Grant: Being part of the premises which George Michael conveyed to Peter Michael, Deed Book 7, page 40, Pike County (see above)

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Note: during Samuel's lifetime, 21 acres were conveyed to John Dewitt; after several conveyances, the lot was reconveyed to Samuel Michael, 2 April 1864.

- 1891 Deed: 6 Nov. 1891 Recorded 9 Nov. 1891
Book 41, page 591
William W. Blanchard and Hattie E., ux., of Newark,
to
Monroe Farming Company, of Middle Smithfield Township
Consideration: \$6,400.
Acreage: 160 acres, 20 perches.
Grant: Subject to payment by the grantee of a bond
and mortgage, dated 9 Oct. 1891, given by
Blanchard to Peter Michael et al.
- 1900 Deed: 31 Mar. 1900 Recorded 2 Apr. 1900
Book 52, page 596
Monroe Farming Company, Ltd. of Middle Smithfield Township,
to
Chauncey M. Dimmick, of the Village of Calno, Pahaquarry
Township, New Jersey
Consideration: \$2975.
Acreage: 160 acres, 20 perches.
- 1937 Deed: 8 Jan. 1937 Recorded 8 Jan. 1937
Book 125, page 660
Chauncey M. Dimmick, of Middle Smithfield Township,
to
Edgar R. Farrington of Plainfield, New Jersey, and Horatio
H. Farrington, of Pearl River, New York,
Consideration: \$10,000.
Acreage: 136 2/10 acres.
- 1948 Deed: 27 November 1948 Recorded 20 Dec. 1948
Book 169, page 150
Edgar R. Farrington,
to
Horatio H. Farrington
Consideration: \$1.00.
Acreage: 136.02 acres.
- 1953 Deed: Recorded 19 Aug. 1953
Book 195, page 213
Horatio H. Farrington and Edith R., of Middle Smithfield,
to
John A. Farrington, of same township
Consideration: \$1.00.
Acreage: 136 2/10 acres.

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1967 Deed: Recorded 30 Jan. 1967
Book 345, page 559
Horatio H. Farrington and Edith R., ux.,
to
John A. Farrington,
Consideration: \$1.00.
Acreage: 35.38 acres.
Grant: same lot conveyed to Horatio and
Edith Farrington by Elizabeth Caddoo Mader, 1956,
Book 230, page 107.

1968 Deed: 17 Dec. 1968 Recorded 23 Dec. 1968
Book 369, page 49
John A. Farrington and Helen E., ux.,
to
United States Government
Consideration: \$135,000.00.
Acreage: 165.01 acres.

3. Builder, contractor, suppliers: The brick dwelling was erected by Samuel Michael and closely resembles the brick used in the nearby Zion Lutheran Church (recorded as HABS, No. PA-1136). The brick is supposed to have been burned on the hill behind the church site.
4. Alterations and additions: There were a series of alterations and additions to this dwelling. The earliest known addition took place before 1890 when James Treibble, a local carpenter, constructed a porch that contained squared balusters, turned support posts and spindle work under the cornice. This porch ran the length of the front elevation.

The second set of alterations and additions was carried out by Chauncey Dimmick. This included the raising of the rear wing to two stories and the construction of an exterior stairway for access to the second floor. Also, during the late 1930s a small laundry room was added, and the porch was replaced by the present porch.

The house was remodeled in the late 1950s. At this time, the living room and kitchen were entirely remodeled. The Farringtons also covered the brick structure with stucco circa 1963.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected With The Structure:

Samuel Michael was born in 1798, the grandson of John George Michael, founder of the Michael Family in the Delaware Valley.

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Samuel Michael married Maria (Polly) Ace in November 1828 and soon established himself as a farmer after the death of his father. In the mid-nineteenth century Samuel built a brick house just north of his father's homestead.

The house remained in the family until 1891 when it was sold to William W. Blanchard.

C. Sources of information:

1. Old views: Several photocopies of photographs have been recorded by HABS (PA-1170-2 to PA-1170-6) showing the house as early as 1900. These photocopies were taken from the collections of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Farrington of Lititz, Pennsylvania and Elizabeth Dimmick Walters of Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

2. Bibliography:

- a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Dimmick, Victor H. Interview by Elizabeth D. Walters, daughter. Information received from Mrs. Walters, 2 August 1971.

Farrington, Mrs. John A. Letter, 28 September 1971, Lower Hopewell Farm, Lititz, Pennsylvania, to Lynn Beebe Weaver.

Farrington, Mrs. John A. Interview (telephone), 10 August, 1971.

The Michael Family. Brochure. Privately printed by the Michael Family. Available in the Files of the National Park Service, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Walters, Elizabeth Dimmick. Interview, 30 July 1971.
Information based on Mrs. Walters' Research Files on the Michael Family.

Walters, Elizabeth Dimmick. Interview, 2 August 1971.

Prepared by Lynn Beebe Weaver
Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
August, 1971.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The house is a comparatively small two-and-one-half story stuccoed brick structure. The brick for this farm house was said to have been made locally as was the brick for the Zion Church nearby.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The L-shaped, two-and-one-half story dwelling measures 20'-0" x 39'-0" (five bay symmetrical facade). The rear ell measures approximately 18' x 20'.
2. Foundation: Random rubble stone. The porch foundation columns are of brick.
3. Wall construction, finish, and color: Primarily of brick construction, the 16" thick walls are covered with smooth finish white stucco. The second story of the rear wing is frame with white clapboard siding, as is the small appendage to the west. No brick is exposed.
4. Structural system, framing: The framing structure is only visible in the basement and attic. The original framing in the basement contains old wood beams. In the attic, the beams are pegged at the ridge.
5. Porches: The front screened porch was erected in the 1930s and runs the length of the south (front) elevation. Its wood floor is raised about 3' off the ground.
6. Chimneys: A small exterior end chimney is located on the east elevation. Old photographs show two interior end brick chimneys with corbeled caps on the gable ends. A small chimney pierces the ridge of the ell.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape: Gable roof with the ridge running parallel to the south (front) elevation.
 - b. Cornice: A simple box cornice sits above a wide plain frieze with returns on the gable end.

8. Openings:

1. Doorways and doors: The main entrance is composed of simple pilasters flanking the opening and capped by a pedimented hood.
2. Windows and shutters: The two-over-two-light double-hung sash windows are symmetrically placed on the front and side elevations. All windows are capped by wood lintels. The windows on the first floor front elevation are capped with pedimented hoods.

Two, four-pane fixed windows are symmetrically placed in each gable.

While no shutters exist at present, old photos show the presence of louvered shutters.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Flooring: Old wide board flooring exist in the west room, ground floor, while flooring upstairs in the main section vary from 10"-12". Other flooring in house is modern wood except in the basement.
2. Wall and ceiling finish: In the main portion of the house, the walls and ceilings are plastered. Modern paneling and acoustical tile have been installed in the kitchen-dining area.

D. Site:

General Setting: The dwelling is located on a slight rise at the bend in the River Road, set back 20' off of road to the west. The site is heavily overgrown now, since the house has been empty for some time.

Outbuildings: A small brick smokehouse about 5'x9' and was built circa 1840. There is also a modern wood frame garage structure on the site.

Prepared by John McRae
Project Supervisor
Historic American
Buildings Survey
July, 1971

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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, supervised by the National Park Service and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project, which extended from 1967 to 1971, was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS. This structure was measured and drawn in the summer of 1971 under the direction of John M. McRae (University of Florida), Project Supervisor, by Jack L. Finglass (Carnegie-Mellon University), Martin J. Rosenblum (University of Illinois), architects, and Stephen J. Kirk (University of Kansas), student assistant architect in the HABS field office at Columbia, New Jersey in the project area of the Tocks Island Reservoir and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The historical data was written by Lynn Beebe Weaver, project historian, in 1971. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Kent R. Newell of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by George Eisenman in 1968.